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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

SUBJECT

Heavy Industry Exhibits/Travel Allowances & Medical Examinations/State Lottery/Shanghai Defenses/Cameras & Films/Importation of Trucks

REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Soviets and Chinese have an exhibit of heavy industrial machinery in a showroom on the first floor of the Carlovitz Building in Shanghai. There they have mammoth lathes, presses, dynamos and pumps and the display is very impressive. The public is not permitted to enter the showroom but can look in through the windows. Last year /1953/ the Shanghai Tram Co was interested in buying a particular type of heavy lathe

none of the machinery exhibited was for sale and there was a long list of authorized customers who were waiting for delivery of machinery which had been ordered months before. the "Heavy Industry Showroom" was purely and simply a propaganda device used to fool the Chinese people regarding the progress of the much-publicized industrialization program.

there was an announcement that the Soviets were planning to build a permanent exhibition hall in Peking which would house the latest Soviet light, medium and heavy industrial machinery.

it will be more "eyewash" to impress the peasants.

2. When an individual desires to file an application with a Western government for an entry visa, it is necessary that the application be accompanied by a certificate stating that the applicant has had a recent physical examination and was found to be free from disease and in good mental health. Obtaining such a certificate usually depends on the Chinese Government's attitude toward the country to which the applicant desires to travel. For example, it is virtually impossible to obtain a medical certificate if you intend to go On the other hand, if you state that you intend to go to a medical certificate can be had with a little less difficulty.

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it is impossible to buy gold bars in Shanghai. Limited amounts of precious metal jewelry can be taken out of China; however, it is required that all gold and platinum jewelry be set with a stone.

pure metal pins and rings have been seized whereas those with small pearl or jade settings have been passed by Chinese customs.

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Goldsmiths and jewelers get quotas of these metals but, once more, anything which they manufacture must contain a stone of some sort.

3. A relatively new diversion for the Chinese worker is the government-sponsored lottery. Tickets are sold [] and the prizes amount to as much as a laborer's monthly wage. This is probably the only remaining opportunity for a Chinese to get a financial advantage over his fellow workers. Because of the great economic pressure felt by the workers, the lottery is very popular. The worker's losses through deductions and bonds puts him in a position where he almost has to buy a lottery ticket in the hope that he will win enough money to "break even" for his month of heavy labor.

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4. The anti-aircraft installations in and around Shanghai are not as apparent as they were 18 months ago. The gun and searchlight batteries are moved from place to place and [] not [] any static emplacements. [] the frequent changes in locations of the guns is a part of the security planning. [] saw a few Soviet, two-jet bombers in December 53 which appeared to be readying to land at Hungjao. There was not much other air activity evident. The radar installations on the Broadway Mansions were removed recently and [] no evidence anywhere in Shanghai proper of any structures [] as radar or aircraft detection devices.

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Excellent plastic models of all types of Soviet aircraft have replaced the F51, B-17 and B-29 kits in the toyshops.

5. Russian Leica, Contax and "Amature" cameras are available in some of the better photographic shops in Shanghai. Good film is difficult to obtain and #127 cannot be had. Most of the film is of Hungarian, East German or Czech manufacture. Of these, the latter is the best []

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6. Much of the material shipped to Taku Bar by sea is later transhipped to Shanghai by rail. The freight trains appear to be well maintained and in good condition. [] seen both locomotives and passenger cars of Soviet manufacture in Shanghai. In late 1953 a great number of Czech trucks arrived by rail along with many new Tatracs. Czech and Russian diesel trucks of ten tons and over are plentiful in Shanghai. Polish one and one-half ton, engine-in-cab trucks with high bodies and "rain forest" springs were beginning to appear in large numbers in November 1953.

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